

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 02280 01 OF 02 120958Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 IO-13
SIL-01 LAB-04 FBO-02 SCS-03 MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05
CCO-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01
SY-05 EUR-12 COME-00 /116 W
-----121024Z 049728 /16

O 120854Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SCSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1764
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KARACHI 2280

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PK
SUBJECT: SECURITY/POLITICAL SITUATION IN SIND

1. SUMMARY: THE COMMERCIAL LIFE OF KARACHI WAS BROUGHT TO A NEAR STANDSTILL MAY 11 BY A DAYTIME CURFEW AND A HARTAL CALLED FOR BY THE PNA. SCATTERED VIOLENT INCIDENTS INCLUDED ONE IN WHICH THE SECURITY FORCES FIRED ON DEMONSTRATORS. AN EVEN TIGHTER CURFEW HAS BEEN CLAMPED ON THE CITY MAY12. ATTENDANCE AT WORK PLACES IS GREATER THAN MAY 11 BUT STILL FAR BELOW NORMAL. THE ANTI-AMERICAN PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IN KARACHI CONTINUES AT HIGH INTENSITY. THE PNA HAS CALLED FOR ANOTHER HARTAL MAY 13. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER A CURFEW FOR MOST OF THE DAY AND A PNA CALL FOR A 24-HOUR HARTAL, KARACHI WAS LARGELY PARALYZED MAY 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT WAS VIRTUALLY INOPERATIVE, MOST SHOPS WERE CLOSED, THE PORT WAS BARELY FUNCTIONING, ATTENDANCE AT OFFICES AND FACTORIES WAS SPOTTY. THERE
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WERE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE BEFORE THE CURFEW BEGAN AT 0800 AND ALSO DURING THE RELAXATION PERIOD FROM 1400 TO 1600. ROADS WERE OBSTRUCTED TEMPORARILY IN LIAQUATABAD AND NAZIMABAD, STONES WERE THROWN AT ARMY AND POLICE VEHICLES AND A SMALL BOMB WAS THROWN AT A POLICE VEHICLE IN JINNAH ROAD. POLICE FIRING ON DEMONSTRATORS RESULTED IN ONE OFFICIALLY ADMITTED WOUNDING AND THERE ARE

RUMORS THAT SEVERAL PERSONS WERE KILLED. AN ATTACK ON AN ARMY VEHICLE IN THE BURNS ROAD AREA RESULTED IN SOLDIERS SEVERELY BEATING BYSTANDERS, ACCORDING TO ONE OF OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

3. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASES THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS IN HYDERABAD MAY 11 BUT THE HARTAL IS OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO HAVE BEEN AT LEAST PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN MIRPUR KHAS, SANGHER, NAWABSHAH AND SHAHDADPUR, AND THE PRESS REPORTS SEVERAL SMALL BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN NAWABSHAH. ONE OF OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHO WAS IN HYDERABAD MAY 11 REPORTS THAT THERE WERE IN FACT SPORADIC INCIDENTS, INCLUDING A HAND GRENADE EXPLOSION, DURING THE DAY. HE REPORTS FURTHER THAT TENSION IS GROWING IN HYDERABAD AT THE SPREAD OF A STORY THAT A WOMAN WHO WAS STRUCK BY A RIFLE BUTT IN MIRPUR KHAS MAY 10 HAS DIED.

4. IN APPARENT REACTION TO THE SIGNS OF RESURGENT PNA AGGRESSIVENESS ON MAY 11, THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES TIGHTENED THE DAYTIME CURFEW MAY 12. IT IS IN EFFECT FROM 0800 TO 2000 IN WEST KARACHI, MALIR, DRIGH COLONY, AND SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF THE CENTRAL CITY NOTABLY BURNS ROAD AND JINNAH ROAD. THE REST OF THE CITY IS UNDER CURFEW FROM 0800 TO 1400 AND 1700 TO 2000. AS OF MID-DAY MAY 12 THERE WERE NO CONFIRMED REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES, BUT THE SITUATION IS DESCRIBED AS TENSE BY RESIDENTS OF AREAS SUCH AS LIAQUATABAD. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT LIAQUATABAD MAY HAVE BEEN SEALED OFF

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TO PREVENT PERSONS FROM EITHER ENTERING OR LEAVING THE AREA.

5. ATTENDANCE OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL VARIES BY SECTION MAY 12 BUT IS NO MORE THAN 40 PERCENT

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SY-05 COME-00 EUR-12 /116 W

-----121023Z 049206 /16

O 120854Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1765

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KARACHI 2280

IN ANY GIVEN OFFICE. BUSINESS FIRMS REPORT OFFICE ATTEND-
ANCE RANGING FROM 40 TO 60 PERCENT OF THEIR OFFICER LEVEL
PERSONNEL BUT A SMALLER TURNOUT AMONG CLERICAL PEOPLE
DEPENDENT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. FACTORIES IN THE
LANDHI/KORANGI AREA ARE FUNCTIONING MORE OR LESS
NORMALLY BECAUSE THEY ARE OUTSIDE THE FULL 12 HOUR CURFEW
ZONE, BUT AN AMERICAN FIRM REPORTS THAT IT IS HAVING
DIFFICULTY MOVING ITS PRODUCTION OUT BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE
TRUCK TRANSPORTATION AND THE FACT THAT ITS DISTRIBUTORS
ARE NOT FUNCTIONING. ONLY A FEW FACTORIES ARE OPERATING
IN THE SITE INDUSTRIAL AREA, WHICH IS COVERED BY THE
STRICT CURFEW IN WEST KARACHI. CONGEN LOCAL EMPLOYEES
WHO HAVE VISITED THE PORT TODAY REPORT THAT ABOUT 50
PERCENT OF THE WORK FORCE REPORTED FOR DUTY, MERCHANTS
ARE RELUCTANT TO TAKE UP THEIR INCOMING SHIPMENTS, AND
FEW LOADED TRUCKS ARE LEAVING THE PORT.

6. KARACHI ENGLISH PRESS OF MAY 12 CARRIED LITTLE ANTI-
AMERICAN CONTENT EXCEPT FOR NPT MORNING NEWS WHICH
FEATURED A CRITICAL EDITORIAL AND A PPI WIRE SERVICE
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STORY ON BACK PAGE IRONICALLY ALLEGING "VILIFICATION
CAMPAIGN AGAINST PAKISTAN BEGINS IN U.S." MORNING
NEWS ALSO BACKPAGED AN ARTICLE CLAIMING THAT BBC'S
MARK TULLY, THE "TENTH STAR OF THE PNA FLAG" HAS BEEN
ORDERED HOME AFTER AZIZ AHMED'S PROTESTS. DAWN
CARRIED AN APP ARTICLE QUOTING FEDMIN EDUCATION WATTOO
AS SAYING U.S. REFUSAL OF TEAR GAS SHOWS THAT U.S.
WISHES PAK GOVT TO BE FORCED TO USE BULLETS TO STOP
AGITATION. AMONG URDU DAILIES, THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES
UNABATED WITH EDITORIALS, BY-LINED ARTICLES, AND STORIES
ON REASONS FOR U.S. INTERVENTION, CIA ACTIVITIES,
INSIDIOUS U.S. AID, AND VARIOUS LABOR GROUPS' ANGER AT
U.S. INTERVENTION. MASHRIQ, MUSAWAT AND AMAN

WERE ESPECIALLY RICH IN SUCH MATERIAL WHILE WEEKLY
AL-FATAH CARRIED 116 NAMES OF ALLEGED CIA AGENTS WHO
WORKED IN PAKISTAN UP TO 1968 FROM EAST GERMAN, DR.
JULIUS MEADER'S BOOK, WHO IS WHO IN CIA.

7. THE PNA HAS SCHEDULED ANOTHER HARTAL FOR MAY 13,
JUDGING BY THE PNA HANDBILLS AND THE BEHAVIOR OF
DEMONSTRATORS ON MAY 11, THAT HARTAL WILL HAVE A
SPECIFICALLY ANTI-ARMY TONE. THE ARMY WAS INSULTED
YESTERDAY IN SHOUTED SLOGANS AND IN PNA LITERATURE WITH
TAUNTS CITING THE SURRENDER IN EAST PAKISTAN AND ARMY
BRUTALITY AGAINST CIVILIANS IN THE PRESENT CRISIS.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, SECURITY, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KARACH02280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770167-0542
Format: TEL
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770566/aaaaceuo.tel
Line Count: 183
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2551753
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY/POLITICAL SITUATION IN SIND
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7ddb695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009